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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT

TOPIC Briesen Airfield

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

50X1

DATE OF CONTENT

50X1-HUM

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 16 May 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

2 Sketches

50X1-HUM

REMARKS

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1. On 31 March 1951, the laying of the narrow-gauge field railway track toward Briesen (N 53/A 19) airfield had proceeded as far east as triangulation point 69.9 which is south of the field. Work on the track was being accelerated.
2. Construction of the first barracks building, about 15 x 67 meters, was started in forest sub-area (Jagen) 59. The building dimensions were paced off. 50X1-HUM
the building was to have two-stories with a basement and that 13 additional buildings of the same type were to be built west of it. 50X1-HUM
Drilling for water had been started, that a depth of 64 meters was reached at various spots of the field and that the best spring was found in Jagen 69. Water was also found at a depth of 21 meters and layers of brown coal at a depth of about 47 meters.
3. The administration of Bauunion-East Firm was quartered in a brick building, about 10x25 meters, in the southwestern section of the field, along the road. Several underground shelters were along the eastern section of this road. Only the entrance to one shelter was seen. * The other shelters were identified from five air-intake pipes projecting above the ground. Next to the entrance of the shelter seen there was a gasoline pump where motor vehicles of Bauunion-East Firm and of other firms were refueled.
4. The Bauunion-East Firm, Klein-Machnow (N 53/Z 73) had the contract for the construction of the field. A total of 1,500 laborers were employed in three shifts. There was a large wooden warehouse for the storage of cement and other building material. Since work on the site near the warehouse and the spur track did not proceed as previously planned, concreting of the runway would not begin before May 1951. 50X1-HUM
 No concrete mixers had arrived yet. 50X1-HUM
5. Test holes were drilled on both sides of the planned runway to examine the structure of the soil. ** The majority of the laborers were engaged in the cutting of trees under the supervision of the district-ranger. 50X1-HUM
 a Soviet penal company would soon work at the field. 50X1-HUM

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6. On 31 March, excavating was still being done on the airfield and construction of a runway had not yet started. About 50 light poles, 50 meters apart, were erected along the highway to Krausnick (H 53/A 19). The lights were probably to facilitate night work along the spur track. Construction laborers said that hangars were to be built into the hills east of the field. ***

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* Comment. For sketch of entrance to underground shelter, see Annex 1.

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** Comment. For sketch of airfield, see Annex 2. The sketch shows that the runway is to be about 3,000 meters long.

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*** Comment. Construction of a new airfield near Briesen. The target for the completion of the work has not been learned.

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2 Annexes: Two sketches

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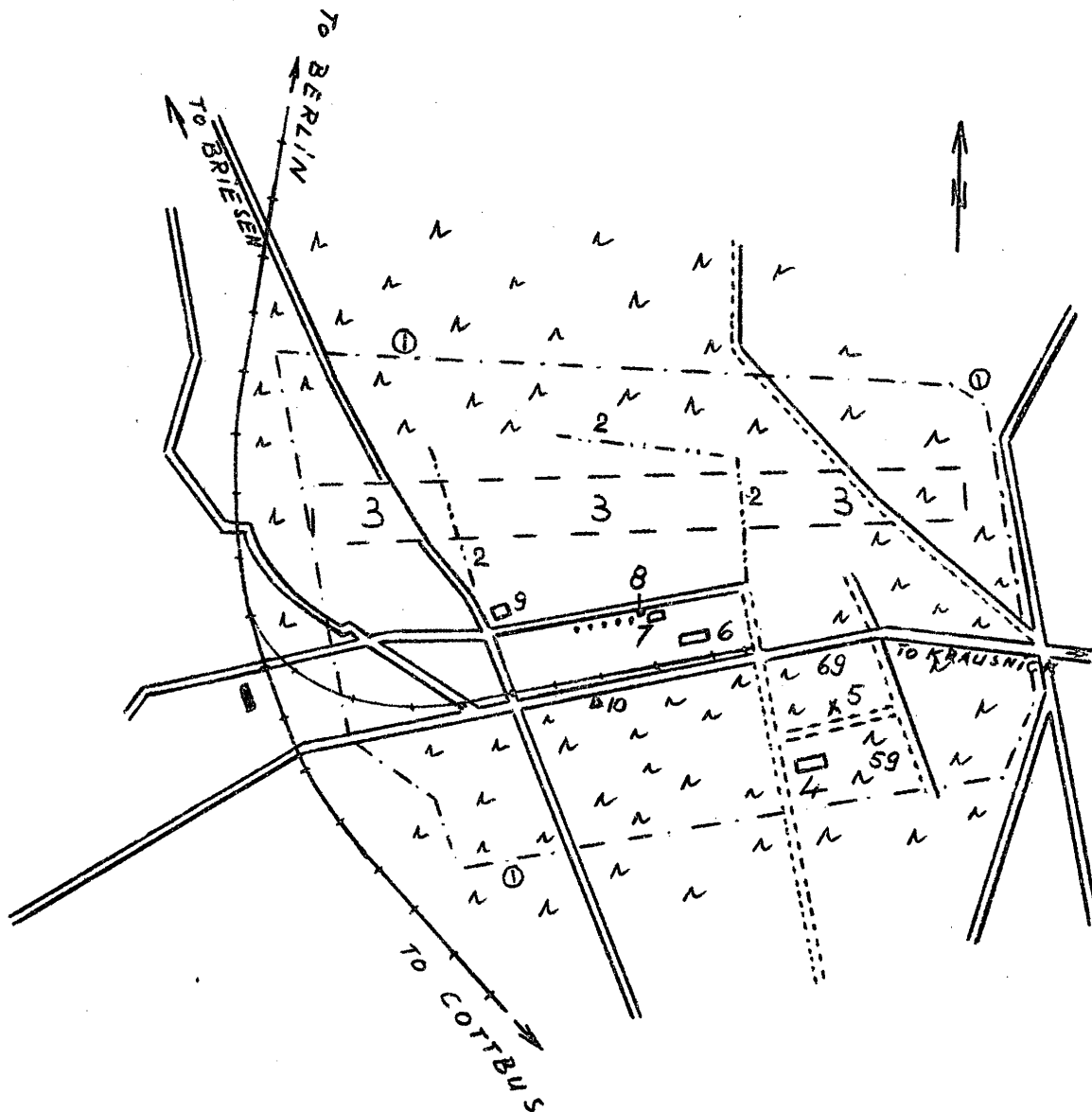
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Annex 1

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Briesen Airfield

Legend: See next page.

Scale 1:25,000

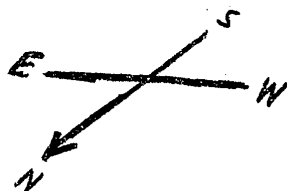
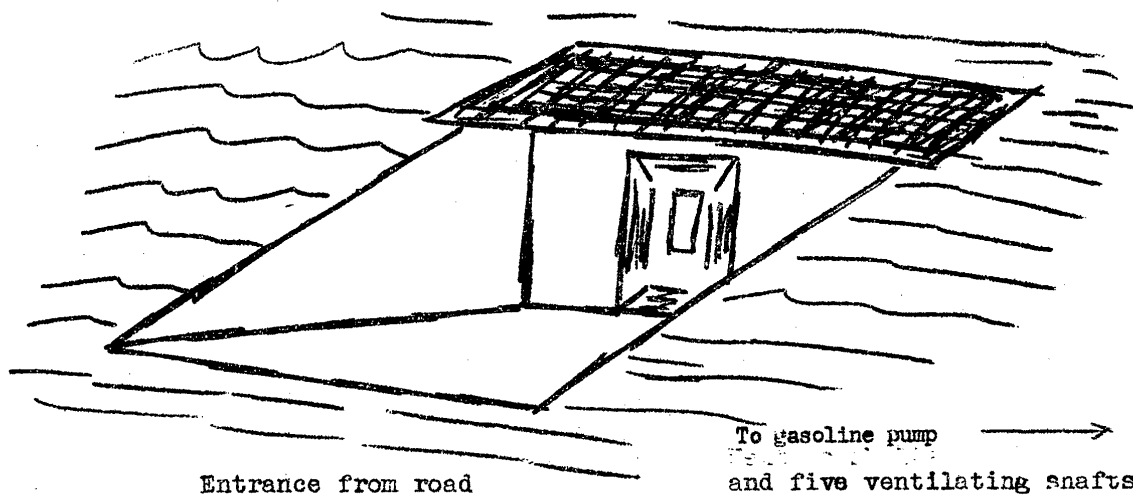
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Annex 2

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Sketch of Entrance to Underground Shelter



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Annex 1

50X1

- 2 -

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Legend:

1. Approximate outer border of future airfield
 2. Border of former improvised airfield
 3. Assumed location of planned runway
 4. Barracks buildings under construction
 5. Test holes for water
 6. Wooden warehouse for the storage of construction material
 7. Underground shelter with five ventilating shafts at its side
 8. Fuel pump
 9. Administration building of Bauunion-East Firm
 10. Triangulation point 69.9
- 59 and 69: Forest sub-areas (Jagen) 59 and 69.

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